

## Ghana Study trip 18/10 - 8/11/2011 by Angie Metzger

This study trip bringing together homeopaths from across the continents was organised for the first time as a pilot fundraising programme in aid of our charity.



Two renowned homeopaths and teachers from Kolkata, Drs. Kalyan and Kalisankar Bhattacharyea gave their time and expertise to help our Project and the communities of the Mafi-Kumase region who are seeking homeopathic treatment. Four homeopaths from the U.K. and our



Ghanaian partners, all met at Mafi-Seva village to practice, study and experience homeopathy.

Students from the Premier International School of Homeopathy and Alternative Medicine (PISHAM) supported by our charity joined this clinical training programme over two consecutive weekends.

They found the experience truly rewarding and team building. Each of them handed in a reflective piece to let us know about their learning experiences.



Emperor, director and trainee homeopath at Mafi-Seva Community Clinic guaranteed a smooth stay for all of us!

Watson, a trainee homeopath at Mafi-Seva who acted as our translator a lot of the time wrote a wonderful reflective account which has been used as an example of good work.



We held 5 different outreach clinics, some over two days. We stayed with Pastor John at Ehi where he had organised clinics and we treated about 25 patients there.





Other days we were at the Community Health Centre at Maf-Seva seeing patients throughout the day and into the evenings. Drs Kalyan and Kalisankar were the main case takers and prescribers.

On busy days and during one clinic at a village called Mepe we saw over 100 patients in a day, we were all practising and prescribing independently and yet working together in more complex case presentations. During our stay of 2 weeks we treated over 500 patients in various clinic locations. Many patients were seen for free, some were asked to make a small contribution – thus we were able to generate some income for the local health centres.



on the way to Mepe



We attended various lectures by Kalyan and Kalisankar, some in homeopathic philosophy, materia medica and pathology. We had the opportunity to learn physical examination techniques as well as differential diagnosis.

Dr. Julius Berdie, principal of PISHAM joined us for one weekend together with the students and invited us to visit a dormant health centre at Vane near the provincial town of

Ho.

This centre used to be run by missionaries, the buildings belong to two local men, Benjamin and Emanuel Baku.



They wish to reactivate the centre where at present a traditional herbalist and Julius work once a month. The government has pledged funds to renovate the buildings.



The mountain area is beautiful where there are 42 villages without medical facilities. The nearest being at Ho. Board member James and Julius would like the GHP to help establish a centre similar to the Mafi-Seva Community Centre and support the establishment and growth of homeopathy in the area. The options are to find a long-term volunteer to build up the centre or prepare one of the present students to work there in future. Of course, remedies and supplies are also needed.



After 2 weeks of clinical training with only half a day break to visit a local market and the town of Keta the course participants returned to Accra for an afternoon of shopping at the local art centre before returning to the U.K. that evening.



The Indian Drs. and Angie, together with Julius and two of the PISHAM board members were invited by the MP of the Afram Plains region, His Hon. Ahaligah Kofi, to travel there and hold 2 days of outreach clinics.

We agreed and travelled for 7 hours in an – oh luxury- air



conditioned car with driver to the area, having to cross the lake Volta by ferry.

When arriving there we visited a large secondary boarding school and were put on the spot



to give speeches to the long waiting students to tell them about homeopathy and to talk about studying at PISHAM. Some of

them were very engaged and asked clever challenging questions.



Then we met with the local chief and other dignitaries who expressed the wish for homeopathy to become an established practice in this remote area of Ghana (it is a water logged area in the Eastern Province, agricultural and fishing). Angie thanked everyone on behalf of the Project for the invitation to this area and their interest in homeopathy.

We then provided free treatment for the college students and worked till late at night. Next day we held two clinics in different villages, seeing well over 100 patients free of charge.



We worked such long hours that we missed the last ferry and had to cross the lake by canoe at night! Initially scary as there were no swim vests aboard but it turned out to be a most beautiful crossing under the starry sky!

The last 2 days were spent at PISHAM. Drs. Kalyan and Kalisankar were teaching the students and some practising homeopaths from Accra also attended these study days.



Angie attended to Project related matters and held tutorials with each student. Each of them got a small token present on behalf of GHP.

The group brought 3 suitcases full of donated books and remedies, 2 used computers and other homeopathic supplies from the U.K. and India. These goods were distributed between PISHAM and Mafi-Seva clinic.

The library is stocked with the basic homeopathy books and there is a small pharmacy with homeopathic remedies at PISHAM and Seva clinic, all thanks to our generous donors from the U.K. and all over the world.

We saw some amazing cases and unusual pathologies, amongst them two snake bites, Hanson disease, severe keloids, ulcerations, tumors etc.



severe keloid

infected snake bite

diabetic ulcer

One fascinating case was a patient, a lady recently bitten by a poisonous snake and treated with local herbs. She refused to visit the hospital. She was numb and in pain when we were called to see her. After the remedy naja LM1 for 3 days her vitality was roused, the swelling on the leg reduced and after a few more doses she was fine, walking around and smiling again.

We all felt highly rewarded by the experience of this inspiring and indeed for some, life changing trip which combined the study and practice of homeopathy in the rural clinics of the Lower Volta region.

Since returning from Ghana, Emperor is doing more outreach clinics to manage all the follow-ups generated from our trip – well over 500 patients were seen. The U.K. supervisors have been on stand-by to support him. This reinforced the need for further studies for Emperor and we agreed to support his airfare to come to India in February to study with Drs. Bhattacharyea in Kolkata.

We set up a fundraising page on 'Justgiving' for this purpose and would appreciate your help.

(<http://www.justgiving.com/ghanahomeopathyproject> )